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***Key Funding to Keep New Jersey Safe Included in Homeland Security Appropriations Bill***

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Congressman Sires supported the Conference Report on H.R. 2892, the fiscal year 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which passed the House by a vote of 307 to 114. This bill provides funding for a number of critical grant programs that support First Responders and increase security in the United States: \$887 million for Urban Area Grants, \$300 million for Transit Grants, \$300 million for Port Security Grants, \$810 million for Fire Grants and \$60 million for Emergency Operations Centers.

“This bill has over \$4 billion for Homeland Security grants, and these grants are critical to New Jersey’s 13th District,” said Congressman Sires. “This funding will go a long way toward improving security in the district. Through these grants, we ensure that our first responders are adequately prepared to offer us the best protection possible against a range of threats,” added Congressman Sires.

Funding for H.R. 2892 totals \$42.776 billion and also includes \$7.7 billion in needed funding for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Nearly \$1 billion will go towards purchasing and installing explosive detection systems at airports, \$110.5 million for surface transportation security, and \$122.8 million for TSA to meet the 100-percent air cargo security screening mandates. The bill also includes \$8.8 billion to fund our Coast Guard and \$103.4 million for chemical facility security.

The Conference Report now awaits consideration by the Senate.